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CONFIDENTIAL
GENERAL

1. Possible Sforza resignation over UK statement on Cyrenaica--
According to US Ambassador Dunn in Rome, Italian Foreign Minister Sforza has expressed to the British Ambassador there his strong objections to the British statement supporting Cyrenaican independence and has declared he regards it as a breach of faith on the part of Bevin. The British Ambassador reports he had difficulty persuading Sforza not to resign immediately and still does not know whether or not Sforza will resign shortly. The British Ambassador commented to Dunn that Sforza's resignation at this time would be unfortunate because of the forthcoming Italian debate on the Atlantic Pact.

(CIA Comment: CIA believes that Sforza's resignation would broaden the political opposition from both left and right to the Government's foreign policy, particularly concerning its commitments with the western powers, and would also intensify current anti-British feeling in Italy. CIA estimates that although Sforza's resignation would not prevent ratification of the Atlantic Pact, it would probably hamper effective implementation of the Pact in Italy.)

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